

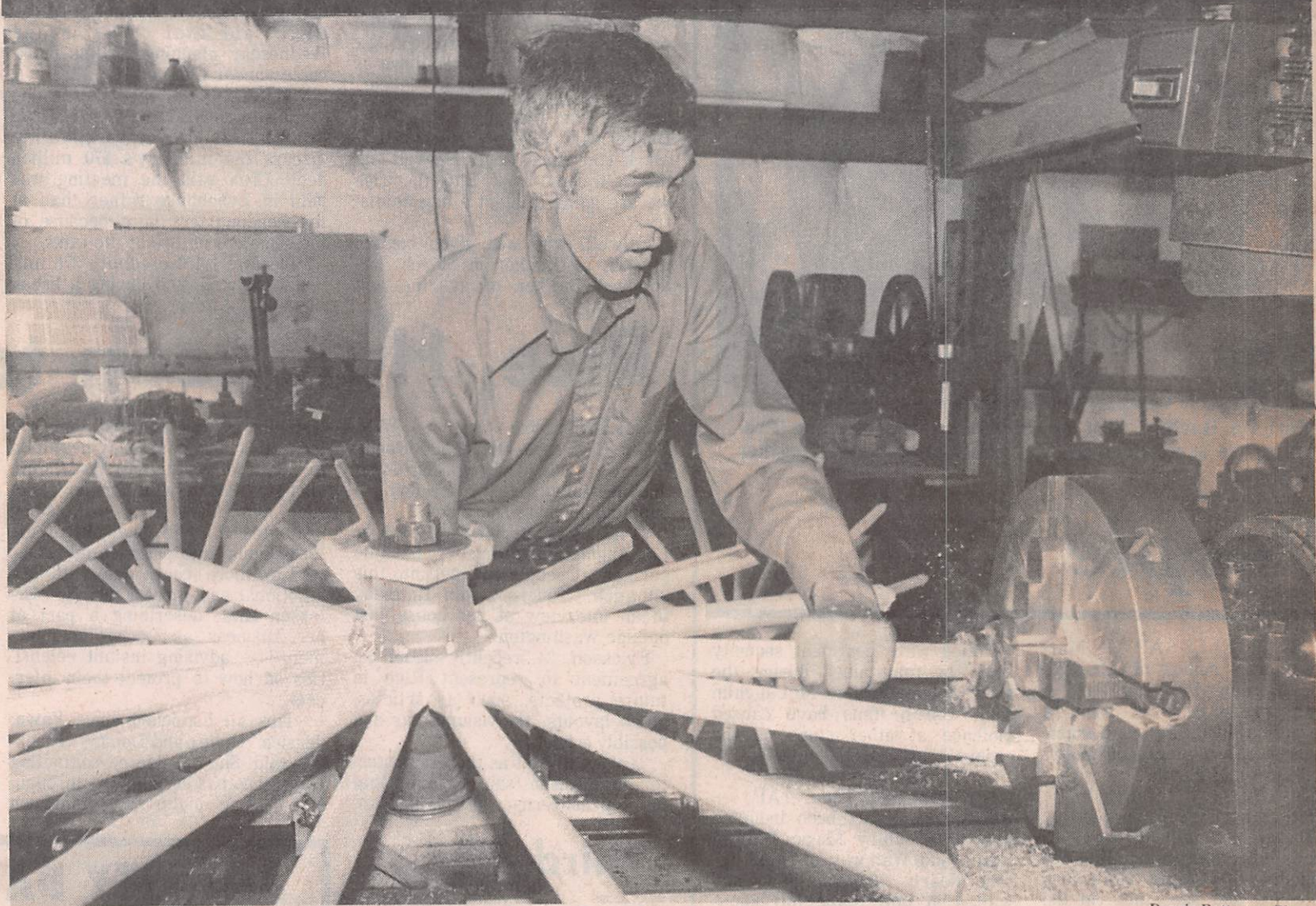
The Daily Herald

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Wheels of fortune



Dennis Patterson Photo

Carpenter Stephen Pratt found himself reinventing the wheel, pioneer style, that is, for authentic handcarts.

A bit of history revisited

Put your shoulder to the wheel

By TOM WALTON
Herald Staff Writer

When carpenter Stephen Pratt looks upon his latest creation, he nearly busts his buttons with pride.

Which is no small feat considering Pratt is tall and lean, kind of the Ichabod Crane of carpenters.

But he is as talented and ingenious as he is lanky. Together with his two sons, Ben and Jonathan, and his 75-year-old old father Richard, Pratt has recreated a part of history that will be rolling through local July 4th and 24th parades — authentic replicas of handcart wheels used by early Mormon pioneers.

About two months ago, the Sons of Utah Pioneers came to Pratt and asked where they could purchase wooden wheels for their handcarts. The nearest places where in Oklahoma and northern Idaho. Even at that, they were too expensive.

"I finally told them, 'We'll build them for you,'" Pratt said.

So he headed off to Tony Rohbock's metal shop in Orem, but quickly found out that volunteering was much easier than actually pulling a wheel off the assembly line. To recreate the wheel, Pratt would have to recapture a lost skill.

He did what any self-respecting craftsman would do — turned his back on carpentry and set out to become a wheelwright.

He read three relatively small pamphlets on wheel-making, one of which was printed in the late 1800s. Through trial and error, he perfected the process, and the first of 18 handcart wheels was finished Wednesday.

Pratt painstakingly followed the same process used in 1800, with a little help from modern technology. Back then, wheelwrights used a spoke pointer to create tenons, where the spokes connect with the rim. It was little more than an exaggerated pencil sharpener. Pratt created his own

spoke pointer and put it on a lathe.

He fudged a little on the rims, which consist of two wooden half-circles — felloes — connected by bolts and a steel plate. Pratt bought the felloes in Pennsylvania. "Never could figure out how to bend the wood," he said.

He discovered an old iron bender in Pleasant Grove, which he used to fashion the standard steel tires.

Each wheel contains \$70 of materials, but Pratt won't hazard a guess as to how much his time was worth during the project.

He's content to simply bring back a little bit of history.



Mariette Hartley, host of CBS-TV's "The Morning Program," is surrounded by her family after uncovering her new star.

People

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mariette Hartley, co-host of CBS-TV's "The Morning Program" and a discrediting star of camera commercials with James Garner, has been given a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame.

Miss Hartley received the 849th star on the Walk of Fame Thursday in front of about 150 friends and admirers. "It's one thing to walk along Hollywood Boulevard and see stars (in the pavement). It's another to trip over your own," she said.

Miss Hartley made her film debut in "Ride the High Country" with Joel McCrae and Randolph Scott. Her TV appearances include "Star Trek" and "The Rockford Files," the latter with Garner.

Her series of commercials with Garner earned her three Clio advertising awards.

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce installs the stars on Hollywood Boulevard for a \$3,500 fee and a guarantee that the star will appear at the installation.

SEATTLE (AP) — Authorities fearing racial violence canceled a rap concert scheduled for Wednesday by the Beastie Boys and Run-D.M.C.

City police recommended cancellation, citing reports that black and white teen-agers were planning to brawl at the show at the Seattle Coliseum, said Terry McLaughlin, finance director for the arena's operator.

Police were confident security could be maintained during the show but not after, McLaughlin said. Unruly fans have caused violence at other stops on the groups' tour.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Randy Travis has been inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame and Walkway of Stars before nearly 200 fans who had waited in line, some for hours, for the ceremony.

Also inducted in separate ceremonies Thursday were singer Earl Thomas Conley and Grand Ole Opry star Jeanne Pruett.

Travis' latest hit is "Forever and Ever Amen." His "Storms of Life" was the first debut album by a country music artist to sell 1 million copies in less than a year.

ALBION, Mich. (AP) — Basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson plans to team up with a teen-age rap group for an anti-drug video.

"The High on Myself Rappers" will meet the former Michigan State University star, who now plays for the National Basketball Association's Los Angeles Lakers, when he returns to his alma mater June 24.

"You can't get 'em down off the clouds," group leader Harry Bonner said this week of the Albion teen-agers, Robert Chapman, Teja Lane, James "Slim" Moore, Donetta "Fefe" Moya and Tymico Stone.

Jim, Tammy Bakker visit to 'say good

FORT MILL, S.C. (AP) — Jim Bakker got a hero's welcome during a surprise visit to "say goodbye" to the Christian theme park he built before his downfall, and vowed again to start a new ministry if he can't return to PTL.

Hundreds cheered Bakker and his wife, Tammy Faye, on Thursday at Heritage USA during Bakker's first visit to PTL's theme park and headquarters since a sex scandal forced him to step down as head of the TV ministry in March.

Asked the reason for his visit, Bakker said: "To say goodbye to it all. If (the Rev.) Jerry Falwell lets us, we'll come back. But otherwise we are going to start a new ministry."

Falwell, who was given control of PTL by Bakker in March, has accused Bakker of avarice and

homosexuality and has rebuffed Bakker's requests to return to his TV pulpit, given up after Bakker admitted having a sexual liaison in 1980 with church secretary Jessica Hahn.

Cable News Network, meanwhile, reported today that PTL may seek protection under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Act. Citing sources it did not identify, CNN said that "PTL began Wednesday planning for the bankruptcy under Chapter 11"

The PTL board met Wednesday at Falwell's Old-Time Gospel Hour headquarters in Lynchburg, Va., to discuss the ministry's \$70 million debt. CNN said the meeting was held in Lynchburg rather than at the headquarters here because of the sensitive nature of the talks.

"We owe 1,400 creditors \$70 million," Falwell said during a break

Rice, Hall boon to

McLEAN, Va. (AP) — With Fawn Hall as a friend and Donna Rice as a client, Tricia Erickson and her talent agency are doing a booming business these days.

"I'm not a hot-shot New York or Los Angeles talent agency, but I do care about people who get into this situation," Erickson said Thursday in an interview at her house just outside Washington.

Erickson, 34, recently signed an agreement to represent Rice in future projects, such as articles, photo layouts, television spots and possibly a book.

"I view myself as more a protector," Erickson said, adding that her top concerns are making sure

Rice isn't exploited and that she maintains her emotional health in the wake of revelations last month about a liaison with former Colorado Sen. Gary Hart. The story prompted Hart to drop out of the 1988 Democratic presidential race.

"I'm more concerned with her emotional and mental health," Erickson said, describing a part of her business as "crisis management" — advising instant celebrities on how to protect their interests.

"This all happened since Fawn, Jessica (Hahn) and Donna," Erickson said. She considered contacting Hahn, but hasn't followed through. Hahn's one night with television

Third dies in Louisiana

ANGOLA, La. (AP) — Jimmy Glass, a high school dropout who shot and killed a bound-and-gagged couple on Christmas Eve 1982, was executed early Friday in Louisiana's electric chair.

Glass, 25, the third Louisiana inmate executed in five days, was pronounced dead at 12:14 a.m., eight minutes after the first of four, 15-second jolts of electricity was administered, said Corrections Commissioner C. Hall Phelps.

Glass grinned as he was strapped into the chair. Asked if he had a final statement, he said, "Yeah, I think I'd rather be fishing."

The U.S. Supreme Court rejected Glass' last appeal without comment Thursday evening. The high court also had refused to stop Louisiana executions on Sunday and Tuesday.

"He told me this morning if anything stopped it, it would be a surprise to him," Warden Hilton Butler had said earlier.

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